(c) what is the financial and operational implication of the proposal; and

(d) what is Government's policy in regard to the sick textile mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) An offer to take over sick textile mills at a nominal cost or even free of cost was made to the respective State Governments provided the State Governments were willing to accept the responsibility of running the viable mills and protecting the interest of the workers. Offer was also made that the Central Govt. would write-off/waive the loans given by the Govt. of India/NTC (HC) to these mills and interest thereon as well as the amount of VRS paid to the workers who had accepted voluntary retirement. In addition, the Govt. of India would be willing to discharge the liabilities towards arrears of statutory dues of the workers. The Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka have declined the offer. No concrete response has been received from the other State Governments to whom the offer was made.

Since a positive response has not been received from any of the State Governments to whom the offer was made the details of financial and operational implication have not been worked out.

It has been laid down in the Textile policy notified in 1985 that the measures needed for the revival of a sick unit have to be based on a detailed and objective study of the causes that led to the sickness and identification of the steps necessary to revive the unit. A distinction shall have to be made between units which are potentially viable and units which are not. As per Govt. policy take over by Govt. or nationalisation of such sick units does not provide solution to the problems of sickness and the Govt. would not as a rule intervene in such cases. However, where a unit has no expectation of becoming viable in a reasonable period of time, there may be no alternative but to allow the unit to close provided the interest of the workers are protected.

Moreover, according to the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction is entrusted with the responsibility of rehabilitating the sick textile mills.

Expert Committee on Ordnance Factories

*216. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering formation of Expert Committee in view of drastic changes made in composition of chemicals used in ordnance factories;

(b) whether there are any regular programmes conducted on safety and training imparted to the ordnance factory employees; and

(c) whether new technology and preventive care is manualised, if not, the reasons therefor; and if so, the inspecting authority to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Safety measures in ordnance factories conform to prescriptions of the Centre for Environmental and Explosive Safety (CEES) and Controllerate of Quality Assurance (Military Explosives), and are relevant to the chemicals in current use. No Expert Committee is proposed to be constituted, nor have drastic changes come about in the chemicals used.

Manuals incorporating General Safety Directives (GSDs) and Standing Instructions (SIs) have been compiled and issued. These relate to the manufacturing process, storage, transportation and handling of explosives.

Regular training in this behalf is imparted under organised programmes to all the employees. The Controllerate of Quality Assurance (Military Explosives) is the inspecting authority and monitors implementation of the safety directives.

A three tier system of safety audit exists in the ordnance factory organisation. These consist of (a) an internal safety audit team within the factory, (b) half-yearly safety audit of each factory by nominated officers of the Ordnance Factory Board and (c) direct annual audits by the Ordnance Factory Board of aspects pertaining to safety, health, environment, pollution, etc.

उत्तर प्रदेश में गलिबहा विद्युत केन्द्र की विद्युत क्षमता

*217. **श्री सूर्यभान पाटील वहाडणे:** क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य बिजली बोर्ड की ओर से भूतपूर्व विद्युत मंत्री द्वारा दिए गए आश्वासन के बावजूद गलिबहा विद्युत केन्द्र, सुल्तानपुर की क्षमता में वृद्धि न किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि उक्त विद्युत केन्द्र की पुरानी मशीनों को बदल कर नई मशीनें जानबूझकर नहीं लगायी जा रही हैं ताकि मरम्मत शुल्क के नाम पर वहां के अधिकारी/कर्मचारी भारी मुनाफा/कमीशन वसूल सकें; और

(ग) उक्त स्थिति के लिए जिम्मेदार अधिकारियों/कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है और उक्त विद्युत केन्द्र की क्षमता में वृद्धि कब तक कर दी जाएगी?

विद्युत मंत्री (श्री रंगराजन कुमारमंगलम): (क) से (ग) उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य विद्युत बोर्ड (यूपीएसईबी) ने सूचना प्रदान की है कि 3 एमवीए ट्रांसफार्मर के स्थान पर स्विचगीयर समेत 5 एमवीए ट्रांसफार्मर को प्रतिस्थापित करके उत्तर प्रदेश में सुल्तानपुर जिले मे स्थापित 33/11 के०वी० वाले कुरेभार गलिबहा सब-स्टेशन की क्षमता में वृद्धि की जा रही है। इस कार्य को चालू वर्ष 1998-99 के लिए कार्यक्रम में शामिल किया गया है। वित्तीय बाधाओं के कारण कार्य पहले आरम्भ नहीं किया जा सका।

Privatisation of ITDC Hotels

*218. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering privatisation of the ITDC Hotels; and

(b) if so, which are the hotels identified for privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFARIS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission in its report dated February 97 has recommended that ITDC should be suitably restructured in terms of its operations for the purpose of disinvestment. The restructuring proposed is as follows:

(i) In respect of the hotels situated in prime locations like Delhi and Bangalore, they may be handed over to established hotel chain through a competitive bidding process to run on long term structured contract on lease-cum-management basis.

(ii) Other hotels may be demerged into separate corporate identities. Shares willl be issued in these companies to Government and other shareholders, if any, in exchange for ITDC shares. The disinvestment in the new companies will be through sale of 100% Government share holdings in them.

2. The Government, however, has not taken any final view on disinvestment and has decided to appoint the adviser(s) to examine all alternatives and options including those recommended by the Disinvestment Commission. As a first step, an Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) constituted by the Government has decided to appoint a Consultant to advise on the selection of appropriate